Amendments to the Abstract

On page 2 the Examiner objected to the Abstract of the disclosure for exceeding 150 words." In response, Applicant is replacing the Abstract as indicated below. No new matter is being added.

An e-mail filtering method and system that categorize received e-mail messages based on information about the sender. Data about the sender [[is]] contained in the e-mail message ~~and~~ is used to identify ~~the~~ an actual sender of the e-mail message. ~~using a signature combining pieces of information from the message header or derived from information in the message header.~~ This and other information about the e-mail message is then sent by each member of an e-mail network to one or more central databases ~~(in one embodiment, the information will also be stored at a database associated with the recipient's e-mail program and filtering software)~~ which store[[s]] the information and compile[[s]] statistics about e-mail messages sent by the sender to indicate ~~the~~ a likelihood that the e-mail message is unsolicited and determine the reputation of the sender (a good reputation indicates the sender does not send unwanted messages while a bad reputation indicates the sender sends unsolicited e-mail messages). Information from the central database is then sent to recipients in order to determine the likelihood that a received e-mail message is spam ~~(information may also be obtained from the local database associated with the recipient's e-mail program and filtering software)~~.